

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claim 3 has been allowed. Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claim 2 contains allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if amended into independent form. In response, Applicant has added the subject matter of dependent Claim 2 into independent Claim 1, and has cancelled Claim 2, without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests an indication of the allowance of Claim 1.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,132,819 to Noriyama et al. in view of United States Patent No. 5,151,807 to Katayama et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention. In particular, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest a defect correcting method in which the pixel electrode of a pixel having a defect is connected to the pixel electrode of an adjacent pixel, where that adjacent pixel has a color filter that is identical in color to that of the pixel having the defect, as defined in independent Claim 4.

One example of an embodiment of the present invention defined in Claim 4 is shown in Applicant's Figure 7. As shown in Figure 7, when the lower center pixel electrode 37, which is a blue pixel (B), suffers a defect, it is connected to the upper center blue pixel (B) by irradiating both connecting points 42 of the correcting wiring 34d. Then, the

connection between the lower center TFT 35 and the lower center blue pixel electrode 37 is cut by a laser at line X. Thus, the defective lower blue pixel electrode will now operate with the working upper blue pixel electrode, since these two electrodes of the same color are electrically connected via correcting wiring 34d. Accordingly, the defect will be barely noticeable at most times, and will be completely invisible when the full screen is black, white, gray, red, blue or green.

The Examiner correctly acknowledged that the Noriyama et al. reference fails to disclose the claimed feature in which the adjacent pixel electrode connected to the defective pixel has a color filter of the same color as the defective pixel. To remedy this deficiency, the Examiner relied upon the Katayama et al. reference (column 17, lines 35-40).

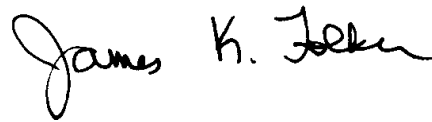
However, this portion of the Katayama et al. reference also fails to disclose or suggest that the adjacent electrode (to which the pixel electrode of the defective pixel is being connected) has a color filter of the same color as the pixel electrode of the defective pixel. In fact, this portion of the Katayama et al. reference merely states that there is a color filter on the substrate, but fails to disclose or suggest anything about adjacent pixel electrodes having filters of the same color, as well as failing to disclose or suggest connecting a defective pixel electrode to an adjacent pixel electrode with a color filter the same as the defective pixel electrode. Accordingly, since all of the features of Claim 4 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of Claim 4.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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